

VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 7 NO. 8

OCTOBER 2004

SERVING THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY SINCE 1998!



**OCTOBER 11
IS NATIONAL
COMING OUT
DAY**

**ATTENTION: FIRST TIME
VOTERS VOTING ON AN
ABSENTEE BALLOT...
MANY COUNTIES
REQUIRE YOU TO SEND
A PHOTO COPY OF A
PHOTO ID WITH YOUR
REQUEST FOR AN
ABSENTEE BALLOT
AND WITH YOUR
ABSENTEE BALLOT.**

THE COPY OF YOUR PHOTO ID YOU SEND,
MUST HAVE YOUR RESIDENT ADDRESS ON IT.

THEATRE OUTLET

Theatre Outlet presents "43 Plays for 43 Presidents" from October 14-30 (tentatively set for Allen H. S. Auditorium.) Five actors lead audiences through lightning-paced "plays" portraying each U.S. President in this irreverent and insightful comedy. Tickets \$12-15. For tickets, call Smarttix 877-238-5596 or online at www.smarttix.com. The Saturday, Oct. 16 performance offers a discounted ticket for PA-GALA (dues paying) members. When ordering tickets or paying at the door, mention your PA-GALA membership to get a discount.

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IS OCTOBER 4 ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 2

"As long as you have voted in two consecutive federal elections, you remain on the (Lehigh County) rolls forever. If you haven't voted, you are held on the inactive list for five years. If, after that time, you don't vote (or contact the voter office), you are purged from the rolls."

-- Chief Clerk of the Lehigh County Board of Election explaining how Lehigh County determines voter status. Each county may be different. If you are not sure you are registered, call your county's voter registration office.

ALLENTOWN HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD WINNERS INCLUDE JOE WILFINGER AHRC BANQUET ENTERTAINMENT TO FEATURE ROBERTA MEEK & STEVE ZIMINSKY

The Allentown Human Relations Commission will celebrate its 27th Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday evening, October 14, 5:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 902 Hamilton St, Allentown. Keynote Speaker will be Malcolm Gross. Roberta Meek will sing music from the Civil Rights era, accompanied by Steve Ziminsky on the piano. Ticket: \$35, reservations due by Oct. 4.

This year's award winners are: Joseph Wilfinger, Chair of the Lehigh Valley Labor Council's Civil Rights Committee. Joe Wilfinger has been a member of the clergy officiating at MCC's Freedom to Marry Day Ceremonies for many years. William Diehl, founder of the Interfaith Coalition on Poverty, Marlene & Beall Fowler, contributors of time and resources to many organizations serving the Allentown community, Pathways Resource Counselors of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches, Clyde Bosket Sr. of Clyde's Barber Shop, Allentown Rotary Club, and Neighborhood Housing Services of the Lehigh Valley. Special Recognition of Service will be presented posthumously to Clayton Bond Jr., and Richard Scrak Sr. For reservations: Nicholas Butterfield -- 610-437-7616.

LEHIGH VALLEY queer film festival

october 15 - 24
lehigh university,
whitaker auditorium
bethlehem, pa



Embracing Same-Sex Marriage in '04!

experimentals : shorts : documentaries : feature length attractions

film list + times + prices + expert Q&A's + special guests + post parties @ www.pridegtrv.org

presented by: pride of the greater lehigh valley + lehigh university + wolfe video

**READ ABOUT PRIDE OF THE GREATER LEHIGH
VALLEY'S QUEER FILM FESTIVAL ON PAGE 6.**

MCCLV 20TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Saturday, October 9 at Iacocca Hall at Lehigh University. Tickets are \$25. The gathering starts at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. Contact Chuck Bickert at dragonlohr@aol.com for more information.

MCCLV HOSTS HALLOWEEN DANCE OCT. 30

Costumes encouraged, but optional. 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, At the church. Refreshments and light snacks. \$5 donation accepted.



What's That About?



Readers write or email
"What's That About?"
editors with questions
about gay and lesbian issues.



Dear What's That About, How do we really know where the Republican and the Democratic parties stand on GLBT issues? **Signed, A Supervoter**

Dear Supervoter: The Log Cabin Republicans, a group who represents gay Republicans, has withdrawn their endorsement for the reelection of President George Bush (R) because this year, President Bush (R) called upon Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage and the 2004 RNC platform supports removing all legal rights of GLBT persons.

The following are the parts of the two national platforms that refer to gay civil rights. To read the entire platform for each of these national parties go directly to the website for the Republican National Committee (RNC) and the website for the Democratic National Committee (DNC).

From the National Democratic Platform:

1. We support full inclusion of gay and lesbian families in the life of our nation and, seek equal responsibilities, benefits, and protections for these families.
2. In our country, marriage has been defined at the state level for 200 years, and we believe it should continue to be defined there. We repudiate President Bush's divisive effort to politicize the Constitution by pursuing a "Federal Marriage Amendment." Our goal is to bring Americans together, not drive them apart.
3. We will enact the bipartisan legislation barring workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.
4. We are committed to equal treatment of all service members and believe all patriotic Americans should be allowed to serve our country without discrimination, persecution, or violence.

From the National Republican Platform:

1. We support the traditional definition of "marriage" as the legal union of one man and one woman, and we believe that federal judges and bureaucrats should not force states to recognize other living arrangements as marriages.
2. We rely on the home, as did the founders of the American Republic, to instill the virtues that sustain democracy itself. That belief led Congress to enact the Defense of Marriage Act, which a Republican Department of Justice will energetically defend in the courts.
3. For the same reason, we do not believe sexual preference should be given special legal protection or standing in law.

GOT PURPOSE?

Beginning Monday, October 4, 7-9 pm, MCCLV will present an 8-week course on "The Purpose Driven Life," on Monday evenings. The course will include general discussion for the entire group and will cover 5 days of the book in each class. Participants will need to read "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren. Pre-class reading for Oct 4th is pages 1-46. For information contact Anthony Young at anthyou@rcn.com.

AA CELEBRATES 1ST ANNIVERSARY

AA at MCC is celebrating its 1st year & September's celebrants 09-17-2003—10-06-2004 PLACE: Metropolitan Community Church, 1901 S. 12TH St.

2



RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, My partner and I have been together for a number of years. Like most people, we want to be doing the best for ourselves from a financial standpoint including taxes, estate planning and life insurance. Guidance in these areas would be helpful for our reassurance. **Signed, On Top Of Things**

Dear On Top, Census reports show there are 3 to 5 million "non-traditional families" in the US. Problems face gay couples that plan their finances together as well as some surprising advantages. Federal income taxes are typically higher. Retirement planning is more complex for unmarried couples. Plans funded by employer dollars may limit beneficiary designations only to a legal spouse. If they are annuitized over the beneficiary's life starting within one year of the death, they must be included in taxable income within five years of the death. The distribution can take place when the survivor is still working, which may mean a much higher tax burden. Social Security spousal benefits are not available to same-sex couples. This forces each of us to accumulate more money to ensure a comfortable retirement.

Estate planning poses another problem with no marital deduction available; taxes are imposed on the balance of any estate above \$650,000. So, even if you are successful in saving the extra money to fund your retirement, there may still be a shortfall if one dies and the other must pay taxes on the balance of the inheritance above \$650,000. Without a will, the surviving partner does not automatically have a share in the estate at all.

Life insurance is available to create an estate for the survivors; however, you may have to prove an insurable interest when purchasing insurance on someone who is not a legal family member. You may still want to protect your minor children or incapacitated adults. It becomes extremely important to clarify the client's intent for the type of guardianship.

Disability insurance and a durable power of attorney and a durable power for health care are critical in having some ability regarding the care and finances of the disabled person.

I have touched on some of the frustrating issues, but what about the positives? You can own a vacation home, a cabin cruiser and a personal residence and receive tax deductions for the interest on all three loans. If one is able to file as Head of Household, they may be in two different tax brackets. It may be possible to shift deductions and create "legal" additional tax advantages.

Clearly, the complexity of planning for the non-traditional family requires a great deal of thought. With a comprehensive financial plan and professional tax and legal advice, non-traditional couples can work toward achieving their financial goals.

Denise McKelvey, CFS is a financial advisor for American Express Financial located at 5100 Tilgham Street Suite 170 Allentown PA 18104. Please mail or email questions to denise.m.mckelvey@aexp.com. Information contained in this article may not be suitable for your specific financial situation.

DIGNITY USA SPEAKER

SEXUAL ETHICS WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY THE RECONCILIATION TEAM of MCC, October 31, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at MCCLV facilitated by Matthew Gallagher. Gallagher is currently the Executive Director of Dignity USA.

FOR LEGAL INFO ON 2ND PARENT ADOPTION

...or if your lawyer has questions call The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights in Philadelphia toll free at 1-866-LGBT-LAW.

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the bases listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8, and asks that organizations or individuals which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.



HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQ youth ages 14 - 20. For information: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or 610-868-2153.

PFLAG TIMES

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 1st Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Upcoming Meeting Dates: Allentown: October 5 Monroe: October 6 Reading: October 19

ALL TOGETHER NOW

The retired Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [ELCA], Bishop Herbert W. Chilstrom, will be the guest speaker at an ecumenical worship service on Sunday, November 7 at 3 PM, at WesleyMethodist Church located at 2540 Center Street in Bethlehem. His topic will be "Gays and the Church: A Bishop's Journey to Wholeness." For more information email: all-together-now@lycos.com.

STEVIE Z

Stevie Z the piano man, will be playing at 9pm at the Stonewall Mooselounge on Fridays: Oct. 15, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10. Half of Stevie's tips for Oct. and Nov. will go to the MCC Building Fund. Stevie will also be accompanying Roberta Meek at the Allentown Human Relations Banquet.

DEMOCRAT RALLY

LEHIGH VALLEY DEMOCRATIC RALLY 2004, MAIN GATE/ALLENTOWN FAIRGROUNDS, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 5-8 PM \$20.00 Refreshments, Entertainment. The GLBT community is invited. Tickets paid for by: Friends of Dan McNeill. Proceeds from this fundraiser to go to current Democratic Candidates.

FACT SNOW BALL

Mark your Callendars for the FACT Snow Ball, Sunday Dec 5 at the Radison Hotel Bethlehem.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus welcomes its 10th anniversary season and Adam Koch as Interim Artistic Director. LVGMC's will present "Not Quite A Holiday Concert" November 20, 8 PM (Tickets \$12, Students and Sr. Citizens \$6) Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St. Bethlehem. For ticket information: info@lvgmc.org or call 610-366-3320.

GLORA EVENTS

The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (GLORA) announces the following events : Potluck/picnic October 3 at Green Lane, Adults-only Fall Harvest Potluck October 16 in Kutztown, Halloween/costume party potluck October 30 in Reading , and a Dutch Treat Hayride on Saturday, November 6. GLORA's 15th anniversary dinner will be at Bower's Hotel on Sunday, December 5. GLORA hosts a wide variety of social gatherings in the community. To join GLORA or to get more information about their events contact GLORA at <GLORA2004@aol.com> or write GLORA at PO Box 541, Bethlehem, PA 18016-0541.

PRIDE BENEFIT

for National Coming Out day With Tequila Daniels! The 2004 Queen of Greater Lehigh Valley Pride will host a party to celebrate National Coming Out Day on Sunday, October 10 from 10pm untill 2am. The event will be hosted at Club Stonewall, 28 North 10th Street in Allentown. The party will feature music by DJ David Petrilla and performances by Tequila Daniels and other drag illusionists. The Coming Out event is for those ages 18 and up with valid ID. No alcohol will be sold and/or consumed in the disco. However, the Mooselounge will be open for those 21 and up. A \$5 cover to benefit Pride will be taken at the door.

JUDY SHEPARD AT KU

Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard, will be speaking at Kutztown University Wednesday, October 6 at 8PM in Schaeffer Auditorium. This is a free event but you may want to get there early to insure a seat. Please visit www.kutztown.edu/ace or call 610-683-4097 for more info.

GLOSS BOWLING

GLOSS bowling, second Fridays of each month at 8:30 through December at the Rose Bowl. \$1.75 for shoe rental and \$10/lane per hour divided by the number of people bowling (up to 6 per lane). GLOSS sometimes meets for dinner beforehand. The Rose Bowl is located at 15th Street & Sumner Avenue in Allentown. Contact GLOSS for more information. Phone: 610-434-2966, email: Info@gloss.org, web: www.gloss.org.

FELIX MOLINA TO SPEAK AT MCC

MCCLV is pleased to announce Felix Molina as its Anniversary Worship Service speaker on Sunday, October 10 at its 10:30 a.m. morning service. The evening service will focus on "20 years."

RAFAEL CANIZARES ART SHOW

Penn State Berks County FREYBERGER GALLERY Show: With EARTH and HAND: Sept. 9 - Oct. 14 Featuring the art of Rafael Cañizares, a graduate of the internationally prestigious Cranbrook Academy of Art. Cañizares makes hand-coiled clay vessels, some taller than six feet, others are smaller than six inches. These vessels reference Christianity, gender, and mediation. Also exhibiting is painter Peter Kinney.

GLOSS SKATING BENEFIT FOR PRIDE

GLOSS Roller Skating Party to benefit Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley. When: Thursday, October 7 from 7-10pm. Where: Whitehall Family Skating Center (Skateaway). Featuring: Live DJ (Bring your own CDs!!!), Snack Bar, Skate rentals, or bring your own (in-line or traditional). Fun for all ages. Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door. For more information contact GLOSS. Email: Info@gloss.org

GLOSS PINOCHLE

Third Friday of each month starting November 19. Time: 7pm. Location: Full Circle, 827 Jackson St, Allentown. Donation: \$3 each to cover snacks. Contact GLOSS to confirm you are coming or for more information. Phone: 610-434-2966, email: Info@gloss.org, web: www.gloss.org.

CALENDAR

AA --AA meetins on Wednesdays at MCCLV, Begin at 7:30pm
ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/laids
ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

All Together Now - Supportive Ecumenical Christians, 610-398-1286, bluemountain@entermail.net

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay&Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

CUUPS --AT UUCLV

Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere - email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GLEE at Air Products

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagrathollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: GLORA, PO Box 541, Bethlehem, PA 18016-0541, email: GLORA2004@aol.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 610.434.2966.

GLOW- at PPL

GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd Saturdays Monthly 7pm, 610-709-8800

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

INTERWEAVE --AT UUCLV

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-997-5474, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 james30338874@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcllehighvalley@yahoo.com, http://www.mcclv.org 610-709-8800

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 882-2531

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

OVOM- LV Documentary Film Org.

PA-GALA - PA Gay And Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Candidate Info Booklet, & Political Lobbying) For membership: send \$20 to: P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449 pa-gala.org

PARENTS- GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 <HTTP://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org/>

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>

QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College , <QuEST_Lafayette@hotmail.com>

OCTOBER 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 CANIZARES ART	2 WDIY GLOSS
3 WDIY UUCLV HMFF MCC GLORA REGISTER	4 LAST DAY TO REGISTER	5 GLOSS MCC LV PFLAG LVGMC	6 HAVEN M PFLAG AA	7 RAA GLOSS GLOSS SKATING	8 GLOSS bowling	9 WDIY GLOSS
10 WDIY MCC HMFF PRIDE	11 National Coming Out Day	12 LVGMC	13 HAVEN AA	14 RAA GLOSS AAHC DINNER	15 StevieZ	16 WDIY GLOSS TO--43 GLORA
17 HMFF MCC WDIY UUCLV GLOSS QUEER FILM FESTIVAL	18 RAA TO--43	19 GLOSS PFLAG R LVGMC	20 HAVEN AA TO--43	21 RAA GLOSS PFLAG P	22 QUEER FILM FESTIVAL	23 WDIY GLOSS TO--43
24 HMFF UUCLV GLOSS MCC QUEER FILM FESTIVAL	25 GLESEN RAA	26 TO--43	27 HAVEN AA TO--43	28 RAA GLOSS	29 TO--43 MCC STORIES	30 WDIY GLOSS GLORA MCC DANCE

NOVEMBER 2004

VOTE!!! TO--43

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA	2 LV PFLAG GLOSS LVGMC	3 HAVEN M PFLAG AA	4 RAA ACCO GLOSS	5	6 GLOSS GLORA
7 WDIY UUCLV HMFF MCC GLORA ALL TOGETHER	8 RAA	9 GLOSS LVGMC	10 HAVEN AA	11 RAA ACCO GLOSS B&N BOOKCLUB	12 GLOSS bowling StevieZ	13 MCC 10,000 WDIY
14 GLOSS WDIY UUCLV MCC 10,000	15 RAA	16 GLOSS LVGMC PFLAG R	17 HAVEN AA	18 ACCO RAA GLOSS PFLAG P	19 GLOSS PINOCHLE	20 LVGMC CONCERT WDIY GLOSS
21 WDIY HMFF UUCLV GLOSS MCC	22 RAA	23 LVGMC GLOSS	24 HAVEN	25 AA ACCO RAA GLOSS	26	27 GLOSS WDIY
28 UUCLV HMFF GLOSS WDIY	29 RAA	30 LVGMC				

DECEMBER 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 M PFLAG HAVEN	2	3	4 WDIY GLOSS
5 FACT SNOW	6	7 GLOSS LV PFLAG MCC	8 HAVEN AA	9 GLOSS RAA	10 GLOSS bowling	11 WDIY GLOSS
12 WDIY UUCLV HMFF MCC GLORA DINNER	13 RAA	14 LVGMC MCC PFLAG R	15 HAVEN AA	16 RAA GLOSS PFLAG P	17	18 GLOSS WDIY
19 HMFF GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCLV PA-GALA Berks	20 RAA	21 GLOSS LVGMC MCC	22 HAVEN AA	23 GLOSS RAA	24	25 WDIY
26 WDIY GLOSS UUCLV HMFF MCC	27 RAA	28 GLOSS LVGMC MCC	29 HAVEN AA	30 RAA GLOSS	31	

Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.
 RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs. At 16th and Turner.
 Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org
 Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
 Reading P-FLAG 610-967-5219
 Safe Space-At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973
 Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587
 Softball-(Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028
 Spectrum- at Lehigh Univ., 610.758.5973
 T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
 Unity-26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
 UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
 VFP - Valley Free Press, 610.432.5449, liztrish@aol.com
 VYH - Valley Youth House for emotionally troubled GLBT youth 610.432.6481
 Wachovia-GALEA- Gay And Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com
 WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 610-694-8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

GLBT YOUTH GROUP
 HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS
 LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
 MONROE PFLAG - 1ST THURSDAYS
 READING
 PFLAG 3RD TUESDAYS
 POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURSDAYS
 GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - TUESDAYS
 GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
 GLOSS RACQUETBALL - TUES & SATS
 GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRIDAYS
 OCT 1-14 - CANIZARES @ FREYBERGER
 OCT 3 - GLORIA POTLUCK/PICNIC
 OCT 4 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER
 OCT 4 - MCC 'PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE'
 OCT 5 - ALLENTOWN PFLAG
 OCT 6 - MONROE PFLAG
 OCT 6 - JUDY SHEPARD @ KUTZTOWN
 OCT 7 - GLOSS SKATING BENEFIT
 OCT 8 - GLOSS BOWLING
 OCT 9 - MCCLV ANNIV DINNER
 OCT 9 - FELIX MOLINA @ MCC
 OCT 10 - PRIDE BENEFIT @ WALL
 OCT 11 - NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY
 OCT 14 - AHRC AWARDS DINNER
 OCT 14-30 - 43 PRESIDENTS @ TO
 OCT 15 - STEVIEZ @ MOOSELOUNGE
 OCT 16 - GLORIA POTLUCK
 OCT 15,16,22,23 - QUEER FILM FEST
 OCT 19 - READING PFLAG
 OCT 23 - DEMOCRAT RALLY
 OCT 29 - STORIES WITH COFFEE @ MCC
 OCT 30 - MCC HALLOWEEN DANCE
 OCT 30 - GLORIA HALLOWEEN PARTY
 OCT 31 - ETHICS WORKSHOP @ MCC
 NOV 2 - ELECTION DAY GO VOTE!!!
 NOV 6 - GLORIA HAYRIDE
 NOV 7 - ALL TOGETHER NOW
 NOV 12 - STEVIEZ @ MOOSELOUNGE
 NOV 12 - GLOSS BOWLING
 NOV 13-14 - 10,000 VILLAGES @ MCC
 NOV 19 - GLOSS PINOCHLE
 NOV 20 - LVGMC CONCERT
 DEC 5 - FACT SNOWBALL
 DEC 5 - GLORIA ANNIVERSARY DINNER
 DEC 10 - STEVIEZ @ MOOSELOUNGE
 DEC 10 - GLOSS BOWLING

INFORMATION SUBJECT
 TO CHANGE!
 TO POST INFO:
 610-432-5449
 LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

VFP HAD WANTED TO COVER THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION IN THIS SECTION, BUT THERE WERE NO OPENLY GLBT DELEGATES FROM THE 15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT TO GIVE US PHOTOS AND INFORMATION

VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATE FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE (PA-GALA)

The Morning Call reported that the state of PA is in a dead heat for the Presidential race -- but that was among likely voters." Likely voters" means people who have voted in the past...that does not mean everyone who is going to vote.

PA-GALA has locally registered over 100 people to vote in the last 9 days. Most of this work was done or organized by PA-GALA boardmember Allyson Hamm. (These voters are not counted by the polls)

PA-GALA has registered hundreds of new voters this year. These voters were not counted by the polls.

Meanwhile three young Latino women came to the house of a PA-GALA boardmember last week... they offered to register them to vote. The PA-GALA people told them they worked for a Gay organization registering people to vote. They were very happy and congratulated PA-GALA on doing its part...then they told stated they had REGISTERED 80 PEOPLE TO VOTE THAT DAY, and it was only early afternoon! They were from a non-partisan voter registration group, but it seemed clear that the vast % of people they had registered were not in favor of the current administration. These voters are not counted by the polls.

And while general statistics show that voter registration is up for Republican Voters by 50%...(25% in Ohio) VOTER REGISTRATION FOR DEMOCRATIC VOTERS IS UP 250%. THAT MEANS FOR EVERY 1 NEWLY REGISTERED REPUBLICAN VOTER FOR BUSH -- 5 DEMOCRATS FOR KERRY HAVE REGISTERED. And these people are not being counted in the polls.

Election Day is November 2. Please be sure all your supportive friends and family vote so their voices can be heard.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

Regarding the upcoming presidential election: Can I just sit this one out? Really, does anyone mind? I'm finding it difficult, no, make that impossible to get all stoked about the current Democratic ticket. Don't get me wrong, I am passionate about removing W from the White House...Oh, here is your Pop Quiz for the day--> What does the W stand for? Is it: a) wuss (as in "here wussy, wussy, wussy"), b) wicked (as in "wicked step-president," since he was not my real president), c) wit-less (as in clueless, mindless, brain-dead, go ahead add your own hateful, but accurate adjective here), d) a wassally Texas wabbit who weally, weally doesn't deal well in weality (or is that walty?), or e) wordsmith (with quotes like "I know how hard it is to put food on your family" and "the question is rarely asked, 'is our children learning?'. That question is rarely asked because anyone over the age of 5 recognizes it as a seriously flawed sentence structure).

We hardly need Michael Moore's 911 to highlight the pathetic, almost comical gaffes and Bushisms. (But I'm glad he made it.) And they are only almost comical because he is the F***ING PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!!! Sorry, didn't mean to yell (like the Vice President), you're nice people. And do we really need Maureen Dowd's regular commentary on Bushworld and his misleadership? Do we need a weekly reminder of how the Bush family and their cronies stole the election and financially benefit from this "war on terror" while making the USA look like the global terrorists? Do we really need a reminder that Bush twists and distorts the truth beyond recognition? Do we need a daily memo so we don't forget that Bush holds all the planet's citizens to his disillusional ideals based on his moral and religious beliefs? Do we need a wake up call that W is no longer hunting Osama and it wasn't Iraq who felled the Twin Towers and that W is avenging Sr.'s old scores? Apparently we do, because, as of this writing, W's ahead in the polls. This nation wants a cowboy in the White House. And not in my wildest fantasies with my eyes closed really tight and sniffing poppers can I picture John Kerry in chaps & spurs. Maybe Edwards. Definitely not Kerry. Besides, I don't think he's the one who wears the chaps in his family anyway...(Note to self: return "Chaps & Spurs" to the adult video store, it's overdue. Those late fees will kill ya.)

Anyways, back to my problem with this election. Where is that eco-friendly, Internet creating, passionately kissing at the podium candidate I fell for four years ago? We courted each other for 8 months (most of you know that's equivalent to at least 2 long term relationships for me). I had been Gore-d. Now I'm finding it difficult to get Kerry'd away by our only choice to remove W. So, if you feel the same, I sympathize. But, I will vote. And you'd better get off your asses and vote, too! Unless you plan to vote Republican. Then go register your gun, protest an equal rights demonstration and/ or see The Passion of the Christ for the 10th time. Next time we see each other, hopefully it will be under the rule of Hillary Clinton. Just Kidding, I hope we see each other sooner than 4 years from now. As always smooches, Steve.

PLANET Parenthood

by Earl and Donnie Snyder
donniearluucas@msn.com

GAY PARENTS WITH KIDS OR KIDS WITH GAY PARENTS

Depending on which way you look at it, you can see there are two quite different subsets of individuals in our GLBT community. The same-sex parents who have children and the children who have a set of same-sex parents. Each has a different take on the same situation. That situation can be reduced to two words- gay parents. The parents may be concerned with how their relationship will affect the children's relationship with peers, teachers, neighbors and even strangers. The children may wonder how their parent's relationship will affect their own relationships with peers, teachers, neighbors, and strangers. The amount of worrying depends upon individual personalities. The degree to which the worries become real issues depends upon the personalities and prejudices of others, laws, and existing support systems.

Other children can cruelly zero in on a child that is different. Children can also be amazingly accepting, often far more so than adults. Some teachers can sense when a child needs special attention, others can be very ignorant of that need. Neighbors can be warm and welcoming or just the opposite. Strangers can be curious and well meaning or suspicious and violent. These circumstances can lead to a variety of responses, ranging from uncertainty to a false sense of security. Experience becomes a main source of education. Even better, the sharing of experiences among families in similar situations provides an invaluable source of support. There currently exist many supportive groups in the Lehigh Valley area on which gay parents and their children can rely, including PFLAG, PA-GALA, MCLLV, HAVEN, and others. But a support group devoted specifically to gay parents and their children, is not yet locally available.

The community needs an open welcoming group of GLBT parents who get together for the sharing of information and stories, education and fun, and most importantly support and networking. To all readers of this column: If anyone knows of any such group or is interested in being involved in one, please email us: donniearluucas@msn.com.

Author's note: Earl and I were invited to participate in a group, but when we asked to write about it, we learned it was more closed, informal, and social in nature. So it doesn't count, yet.

GOOD NEWS IN MASSACHUSETTS

The last threat to the legalization of same-sex marriage in the state of Massachusetts may have been extinguished, when powerful House Speaker Thomas Finneran resigned his position. Finneran, an opponent of same-sex marriage, helped pass an anti-gay constitutional amendment through the Legislature last spring. That amendment, must be ratified by two consecutive legislative sessions before being sent to the voters. But while Finneran might have maneuvered the amendment through a second session, his successor, Salvatore DiMasi, will not do so.

DiMasi, who represents Boston's North End, is a friend to the LGBT community who supports marriage equality. Even though the amendment had an uphill battle to reach the voters, it's now likely that the proposal will never even get a second legislative vote. Finneran stepped down as federal investigators are trying to determine whether he lied under oath about his role in a redistricting plan.

SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



I'VE MISSED YOU, SO...

Hello Happy Travelers! You are invited to a night of dinner and entertainment. On Saturday October 23rd the Happy Travelers are meeting up at the Bridgeworks in South Bethlehem for dinner at 6:00pm. Following dinner let's walk over to Lehigh's Zoellner Art Center. The students are performing The Birds by Aristophanes. Written in 414 B.C.E. this Old Comedy still has something to tell us today. Email me at scottlaubner@yahoo.com so I can give a headcount to the restaurant.

GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY PRIDE PRESENTS 2004 QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

JOIN HANDS: Embracing Same-Sex Marriage in '04. October 15, 16, 22, 23 - Lehigh University, Whitaker Auditorium, West Packer Avenue, Bethlehem.

JOIN HANDS is representative of the importance of queer unions and marriage in the larger political and social climate surrounding the GLBTI community in the Greater Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania and the U.S. A large collection of documentaries showcase this integral piece of queer history as panel discussions, special guests and Q&A's enhance the films.. In addition to same-sex Marriage, many other poignant topics will be screened: Queer Relationships, AIDS, Transgender themes, Homophobia, Racism, and a little campy humor for comic relief. Post-parties feature personal discussions about the films to continue. Check out: www.prideglv.org for details!

"Join Hands. Same-Sex Marriage in '04" FILM SCHEDULE: (Marriage issue films are marked with asterisks.)

Friday, October 15, 7pm - Happy Endings: The Ten Rules, 25mins., A Bear's Story, 20min., Tying the Knot, 80min.***, Panel Discussion: Civil Marriage -- Includes Beth Corbin of American United for the Separation of Church and State, and Liz Bradbury and Patricia Sullivan long time life partners and PA-GALActivists.

Saturday, October 16, Matinee, 2pm - Transitions from Self-Love to Marriage: Flower Arranging for Beginners, 9mins., I Am Who I Am: My Life as a Transsexual, 57mins., I Can't Marry You, 60min.*****Evening, 7pm - Fighting and Protecting Health, Love & Commitment:** A Women Reported, 5min., Pills, Profits & Protests, 60min., Saints & Sinners, 71mins.*** Panel Discussion - The Church & Same-Sex Marriage

Friday, October 22, 7pm - ISO LTR: Breaking Up Really Sucks, 9mins., One Wedding & A Revolution, 19min.***, Goldfish Memory, 85mins.

Saturday, October 23, Matinee, 2pm - His/Her Shorts: A Women Reported, 5min., Deliverance - The Musical, 8min., Breaking Up Really Sucks, 9mins., Flower Arranging for Beginners, 9mins., It's A Party, 9mins., Welcome to Life, 15min., The Ten Rules, 25mins., A Bear's Story, 20min., Pretty Things, 20+mins, **Evening, 7pm - Bouquets of Color:** Welcome to Life, 15min., Flowers from the Heartland, 25min.***, Intermission, Brother to Brother, 90min. Q&A by Ian Smith, Professor of English/Theatre at Lafayette College

Sunday, October 24, Afternoon, 12noon - The Fire of Camp: Deliverance - The Musical, 8min, Pretty Things, 20+mins, When Ocean Meets the Sky, 99min., Meet & Greet with Darcy Becker & Carson Kressley



LIZ OUT LOUD LETTERS

By Liz Bradbury

Recently, I was asked to speak to a group of straight people about GLBT issues. The emphasis was on gender identity. There was a Transgender community person there to speak on the issue from a personal point of view. I was glad about that because I strongly believe the best people to speak about a minority group are those who are actually of that group. I decided I'd focus on getting people to think about how they deal with gender in general. I gave out these questions. How would you answer them? Think about your answers and why you feel that way. You might ask family members these questions. Hey, the holidays are coming up...why not let the sparks fly?

1. True or false: I would be angry if someone thought I was a member of the opposite sex.
2. If I mistake someone for the opposite sex, and mistakenly call him her or her him, and I am corrected I: A. am embarrassed and try to explain to the person why I was confused. B. think the person should have been wearing clothing that was more easily identifiable as one or the other gender. C. shrug and smile. D. get annoyed at the person for not being honest about who they are.
3. If I were caring for a young male child, how hard would I avoid dressing him in a pink outfit that would be seen in public? A. It wouldn't matter, I used to dress my sons (myself) in pink all the time. B. I wouldn't worry about it if that was the only clean item, but as a rule, I'd probably skip pink clothes. C. I'd find another outfit somewhere, or maybe just skip going out that day. D. I'd rather dip my kid in mud, than let him wear a pink shirt.
4. T or F: I have never wondered why they call High School male sports teams a mascot name -- like The Cardinals -- but they always seem to call the female teams -- The Lady Cardinals.
5. T or F: If a woman had to have chemotherapy and lost all her hair, I would think she should wear a wig so people would still know she was a woman.
6. T or F: If I lost all my hair from chemotherapy and people were unsure whether I was a man or a woman, I would wear a wig so people would not make the mistake again.
7. If your child or the child of a close family member was born Intersex (with the sex organs or characteristics of both sexes) would you allow the doctors to perform an operation at that time to isolate a specific gender for the child?
8. Have you ever told anyone in your family that you would still love them if they came out as gay or transgender? If you answered no to this question...how could a gay or Trans family member know you would support them if you never said you would? -- If you are gay or transgender, you cannot skip this question by assuming everyone knows how you feel, the question is: HAVE YOU TOLD THEM?

10,000 VILLAGES AT MCC

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES Craft Fair -- On Saturday, Nov. 13 and Sunday Nov. 14, MCCLV will be the site of an enjoyable and talent-filled craft fair sponsored by TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES, an organization dedicated to bringing crafts from third-world countries to the U.S. for sale. The items are beautiful, well-made and inexpensive. More information will be posted on the Helping Hands bulletin board and on the MCCLV website.

7

TRISH'S COLUMN LV HOSPITAL REFUSES TO CHANGE

By Patricia Sullivan



The largest employer in the Lehigh Valley, Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH), has decided not to add "sexual orientation and gender identity" to its employment non-discrimination policy. We were told that when Allentown lost its case in the lower court, the hospital felt adding the protections to their own policy was unnecessary. The fact is that even though the lower court ruled against the City of Allentown, the case is on appeal and the city's anti-discrimination law provisions are in effect throughout the appeal process all the way to the Supreme Court. LVH has decided to retain a policy which states that LVH will comply with all Federal, State and Local government regulations with regard to the hospital's non-discrimination policy.

In our view, this policy labels LVH as a corporation that carefully reserves the right to discriminate against anyone not explicitly protected by law, rather than implement a socially just and compassionate policy toward all its patients and employees in its facilities throughout the valley. Administrators at LVH insist that although they do not put it in writing, they do not discriminate on the basis of those issues. So, why not include sexual orientation and gender identity in the policy? Answer: The administration has chosen not to. And although the exact reason for choosing not to include sexual orientation and gender identity may never be clear, the impact of their decision is: LVH does not have a policy that protects either its patients or its employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

For several years employees and members of the GLBT community have asked the Administrative of LVH to make their policy more inclusive. Following my admission and treatment at LVH this past spring, Liz and I completed an extensive feedback form on the services and care I had received at LVH. We completed the form and added a personal letter explaining how LVH's failure to publicly post an anti-discrimination policy, affected our experience at LVH. We offered suggestions to make LVH more consumer friendly to our community and noted that we could be contacted to discuss the matter further. The only follow-up we received from LVH was a letter asking for a financial donation to the hospital.

GLBT employees and patients will most likely never complain to the administration about disparate treatment because the policy offers no protection. A policy that fails to state that discrimination against sexual orientation and gender identity in employment and services will not be tolerated, does not instruct LVH administrators and staff not to discriminate against GLBT people. How do these employees know they are not to discriminate? They don't and some do.

It is clear that LVH has no intention of ever supporting the rights of GLBT people unless they are forced to do so by law. That demonstrates how important the law and the courts are. Those who want to retain the right to discriminate malign the courts with the cry "activist judges," then attempt to legislate to reduce the power of the courts. Minorities can never rely on big business to do the right thing on its own. It is the law and the courts that protect the minority from discrimination. That is why voting for the people who make the laws is so important.

"STORIES WITH COFFEE" RESUMES AT MCC

"Stories with Coffee" will resume the fall season with monthly readings, now on the LAST Friday of each month at 7pm at MCCLV in Merchants Square Mall, Allentown. Beth Goudy will be reading the short story, "Kick Me," on October 29. David Sedaris's "Season's Greetings to Friends and Family" will be read on Nov. 26.

POP QUIZ 8

- Which of these Canadian jurisdictions does not have legal same-sex marriage? A. Prince Edward Island B. Nova Scotia C. Ontario D. Manitoba
- Which of these Canadian jurisdictions does not have legal same-sex marriage? A. Alberta B. British Columbia C. Quebec D. Yukon territory
- What openly GLBT tennis player is currently ranked #1 in the world? A. Martina Navratilova B. Martina Hingis C. Amelie Mauresmo D. Billy Jean King
- In the new Alexander the Great Hollywood bio-pic, Alexander's bisexuality is: A. portrayed honestly B. addressed fleetingly C. touched on momentarily D. depicted as purely platonic
- The new remake of "Alfie" stars Jude Law. In the original 1966 version Alfie was played by: A. Anthony Newley B. Michael York C. Michael Caine D. Peter Sellers
- John Waters' new movie is called; "A. A Dirty Shame B. Slime C. Crab Town D. In Charm City
- The _____ Foundation is a non-profit national group dedicated to GLBT college students. A. Gill B. Olivia C. Point D. Ford
- Kate Clinton's new CD is called: A. Don't Get Me Started B. The Marrying Kind C. Live In Sin D. There Otta Be A Law
- Three of these companies got HRC's top score (100) for best place to work, which one got a loser 0? A. Miller Brewing B. Owens Corning C. Dell D. ALLTELL Corp
- Three of these companies got HRC's top score (100) for best place to work, which one got a dismal 14? A. Cisco Systems B. Exxon Mobil C. Citigroup D. PepsiCo Inc.

1.D 2.A 3.C 4.D 5.C 6.A 7.C 8.B 9.D 10.B

QUOTE#5

"On Thursday the Republican Party owned up to sending mass mailings to residents of Arkansas and West Virginia demonizing homosexuals and predicting liberals would ban the Bible if Democrats won in November. The campaign literature featured a picture of the Bible with the label 'banned' slapped on top of it, and a picture of a man proposing to another man with the caption 'allowed.'" "This is evidence that the president's re-election campaign has decided to use gays and lesbians as wedge issues in an attempt to win the election," said Log Cabin Republican political director Christopher Barron. -- * Reported in the New York Times

We believe that we could improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA-GALA

Valley Free Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

To add our organization to this list, Contact VFP

QUOTE #1

At the end of the session, Bush reportedly told the group, "I trust God speaks through me. Without that, I couldn't do my job." -- From a news report on George W. Bush's meeting with Amish families in Lancaster in July.

QUOTE #2

"We do not support any type of constitutional amendment that hinders the civil rights of any individual. Any constitutional amendment should be progressive, not regressive," affirmed Gabriela Lemus, director of policy and legislation at the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). Lemus is also the founder of the LULAC Democracy Initiative. "This poll shows that the proposed federal marriage amendment is an ineffective wedge among Latino voters." -- **Comment on polls showing a majority of Latinos are against a Constitutional Amendment banning same-sex marriage and rating same-sex marriage last among important issues in this Presidential election.**

QUOTE #3

"The polls are wrong. They are all over the map like diarrhea. On Friday, one poll had Bush 13 points ahead -- and another poll had them both tied. There are three reasons why the polls are b.s.: One, they are polling 'likely voters.' 'Likely' means those who have consistently voted in the past few elections. So that cuts out young people who are voting for the first time and a ton of non-voters who are definitely going to vote in THIS election. Second, they are not polling people who use their cell phone as their primary phone. Again, that means they are not talking to young people. Finally, most of the polls are weighted with too many Republicans, as pollster John Zogby revealed last week. You are being snookered if you believe any of these polls." -- **Michael Moore**

QUOTE#4

"Case in point: The same people who label Justice Kennedy as 'activist' hurled no such accusations at an Alabama judge who defied a federal court order to comply with the First Amendment and remove a monument to the Ten Commandments from public property. Opponents of equality want judges to promote an agenda - their agenda. ---HRC on who will appoint judges in the next four

Distelfink © Still can't decide?
by Ruby Zebu 10/04

"You teach a child to read, and he or her will be able to pass a literacy test."— George W. Bush, speaking in Townsend, Tenn., Feb. 21, 2001

nuff said...

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